

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD



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School Profile 2025–2026

Dexter Southfield is an independent, college-preparatory, coeducational day school. Dexter School (founded in 1926) and Southfield School (founded in 1992) merged in 2013.

Students are provided a foundation for excellence as they gain the character, confidence, and compassion to become leaders, lifelong learners, and engaged citizens. Character education and leadership lessons are part of daily practice. Dexter Southfield builds individuals of strong character and action to become leaders in the world.

Students live by the School motto, "*Our Best Today, Better Tomorrow.*"

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD AT A GLANCE

**PreK
THROUGH
Class 12**

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
1,082

460

STUDENTS IN
UPPER SCHOOL

121

COMMUNITIES
REPRESENTED

100%

OF GRADUATES
MATRICULATE TO
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

117

STUDENTS
IN CLASS 12

ACADEMIC COURSE
EXPECTATIONS

5

PER SEMESTER

43

HONORS COURSES
AVAILABLE

20

AP COURSES
OFFERED

32%

OF UPPER SCHOOL
STUDENTS RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID

36%

OF THE CLASS OF 2025
RECRUITED TO PLAY
VARSITY ATHLETICS
AT COLLEGIATE LEVEL

GPA Grading Scale: For the Class of 2026 and subsequent graduating classes, end-of-year grades are given one additional point of weight for AP courses and one-half point for Honors courses. From 2018-2025, the School gave one point of weight for both Honors and AP courses.

Class Rank: Students are not ranked.

Reporting Discipline: The School does not disclose student discipline to colleges unless the School decides that a student's standing at Dexter Southfield is in doubt because of the student's actions. Questions about reporting discipline should be directed to Brian LaRochelle, Director of College Counseling.

The Cum Laude Society: Induction for Class 12 students is in the fall and spring, and is based on scholarship, character, and devotion to excellence. Students must fall within the top 20% of the class.

School Memberships & Accreditation: NAIS, AISNE, NACAC, BISCCA, ACCIS, New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Information as of September 5, 2025

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Public Speaking is an integral part of a Dexter Southfield education and one of our most honored traditions. Through an intentional and highly coordinated program of study from Kindergarten to Class 12, students learn poise and presence while developing the skills to lead a room with confidence. From the first Weekly Assembly to the final Senior Address, students learn how to listen courteously, how to think critically about a subject so they can communicate confidently and articulately, and how important it is to share oneself to connect with an audience. Most of all, they discover the incredible power of the spoken word.

In Upper School, students meet weekly for the formal study of Public Speaking. Each Class presents an annual, culminating speech: Class 9 gives persuasive speeches; Class 10 delivers fast-paced ignite speeches; Class 11 offers "This I Believe" speeches; and Class 12 develops capstone senior speeches.

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD SCHOLARS

The Dexter Southfield Scholars program affords students the opportunity to take on unique independent research in an academic area of their choosing. The program provides a flexible and dynamic learning environment, allowing each student to complete coursework outside of the traditional classroom setting. Leveraging our proximity to Boston, students tap into the intellectual capital of the city connecting them with mentors from various professional fields, who, alongside our program faculty, guide students in their research. The program allows for hands-on learning, advanced research methods, problem-solving, and developing a growth mindset. By bridging classroom knowledge with real-world experience, students engage more deeply in the world beyond Dexter Southfield while preparing to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Interested students must be in excellent academic standing, apply for admission, and successfully complete the following three electives: Research Methods Honors, Scholars Program I, and Scholars Program II.

Note: This program was not available to the Class of 2026 and is offered to the Class of 2027 and future graduating classes.

GLOBAL STUDIES

The Upper School Global Studies program is rooted in the belief that meaningful learning extends beyond the boundaries of our school, city, and country. At its heart is the conviction that students develop the deepest understanding of the world—and their place in it—through immersive, firsthand experiences. By traveling internationally, students engage directly with new cultures, languages, and perspectives, fostering empathy and cultural competence. These experiences not only enrich their academic understanding but also build essential life skills such as adaptability, independence, and critical thinking—key traits for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP HONORS COURSE WITH BABSON COLLEGE

Our partnership with Babson College, a globally recognized leader in entrepreneurship education, enhances the quality of our Entrepreneurship Honors course. Through Upper School teacher Bob Donahue's certification in Youth Entrepreneurship Education from Babson, students benefit from innovative methodologies and best practices in entrepreneurial thinking. This collaboration ensures that students gain practical, real-world insights into developing and pitching business ideas. The course also equips them with the legal, creative, analytical, and interpersonal skills vital for success in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and leadership.

HARVARD MEDSCIENCE

Our partnership with Harvard MEDscience (HMS) offers a dynamic and immersive introduction to the world of medicine and life sciences for both Middle and Upper School students. The Upper School MEDscience Honors and MEDscience Lab Honors courses combine hands-on clinical cases and classroom instructions. Students delve into human anatomy and physiology and study medical case studies in emergency room simulations. Weekly visits to HMS allow students to work directly with medical professionals and responsive mannequins, developing critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills essential for success in STEM fields and beyond. In 2025, we expanded our HMS offerings to include MEDscience Clinical Honors and MEDscience Emergency Response Honors.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON DOCENTS

Upper School Museum of Fine Arts Docents are led by our knowledgeable Visual Arts faculty and train early in the school year to qualify to give "insider" tours to our Lower School students. The MFA Docent program is one way students put their public speaking skills into practice while simultaneously developing skills in research, communication and presentation, leadership, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

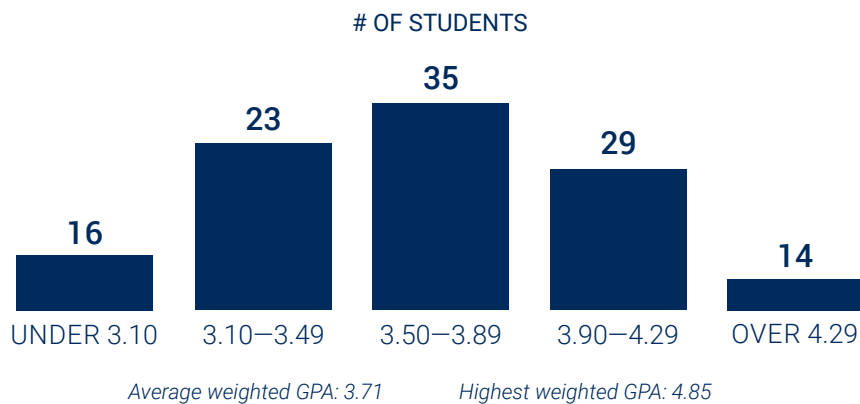
GPA GRADING SCALE

A student's cumulative unweighted GPA is inclusive of all academic course grades earned at Dexter Southfield through the last completed school year. **End-of-year grades are given one additional point of weight for AP courses and one-half point for Honors courses.** *The school publishes a weighted and an unweighted GPA.*

Please note that for the classes of 2018–2025, Honors and AP courses received equal weight. The scale below applies to the Class of 2026 and subsequent graduating classes.

LETTER GRADE	UNWEIGHTED	HONORS	AP
A+	4.3	4.8	5.3
A	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	1.7	2.2	2.7

Class of 2026 Weighted GPA Distribution



HONORS & HIGH HONORS DISTINCTIONS

Awarded at the end of Semester I and Semester II.

- **Academic Honors:** Students who earn a weighted GPA of 3.8 or above and have no grade lower than a B- for their courses will receive the distinction of Academic Honors.
- **Academic High Honors:** Students who earn a weighted GPA of 4.0 or above and have no grade lower than an A- for their courses will receive the distinction of Academic High Honors.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Public Speaking:** Students learn to speak and write effectively by preparing and delivering an annual public address to fellow students, faculty, and administrators.
- **Community Service:** All students must complete at least 40 hours of community service prior to graduation.
- **Senior Independent Learning Experience:** In May, seniors explore passions or new areas of interest through real-world experiences. Students are required to complete 100 hours of supervised activity, reflect on their experience, and present to a panel of peers and faculty to showcase the culmination of their work.

AP courses and Honors-level electives are typically available starting in the junior year.

ENGLISH (4 YEARS)

AP English Language and Composition

AP English Literature and Composition

American Literature Honors

Ethical Philosophy Honors Seminar

Gothic Literature Honors

Individual in Society Honors

Literary Study Honors

Literature of Social Justice Honors**

Modernism: A Culture Honors

World Literature Honors

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**(3 YEARS WITH US HISTORY)**

AP Art History**

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP Economics

AP Human Geography**

AP Psychology*

AP US Government & Politics**

AP US History

Ancient World History Honors

British Imperialism Honors

Constitutional Law Honors

Economics Honors**

Entrepreneurship Honors

Finance Honors**

Macroeconomics Honors

Microeconomics Honors

Modern World History Honors

Today's China & Japan Honors

Understanding 9/11 Honors

US History Honors

MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE**(3 YEARS WITH ALGEBRA II)**

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Computer Science A

AP Pre-Calculus

AP Statistics

Algebra II Honors

Calculus Honors

Integrated Algebra and Geometry Honors

Geometry Honors**

Multivariable Calculus Honors ***

Pre-Calculus Honors

LANGUAGE (3 LEVELS)

AP French Language and Culture

AP Latin

AP Spanish Language and Culture

AP Spanish Literature**

French II Honors

French III Honors

French IV Honors

French V Honors

Latin II Honors

Latin III Honors

Latin Literature Honors I

Latin Literature Honors II

Spanish II Honors

Spanish III Honors

Spanish IV Honors

Spanish V Honors

LAB SCIENCE (3 YEARS)

AP Biology

AP Chemistry

AP Environmental Science

AP Physics C Mechanics

Bioethics Honors**

Biology Honors

Chemistry Honors

Immunology Honors

Neuroscience Honors**

MEDscience Clinical Honors*

MEDscience Emergency Response Honors*

MEDscience Honors

MEDscienceLAB Honors

Physics Honors

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (3 SEMESTERS)

AP Music Theory

AP Studio Art

Advanced Studio Art Honors

* New course offering in 2025–2026

** Course not offered in 2025–2026

*** This is a post-AP course and weighted the same as AP classes.

View the 2025–2026 Course Catalog: www.dextersouthfield.org/course-catalog-welcome

Dexter Southfield graduates have matriculated to the following colleges and universities over the past five years.

Ten or more graduates enrolled

Babson College
Boston College
Boston University
Colby College
Indiana University Bloomington
Northeastern University
Providence College
Syracuse University
Tufts University

Five to nine graduates enrolled

Bentley University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
Cornell University
Elon University
Endicott College *
Fairfield University
The George Washington University
Hamilton College
Harvard College
New York University
Southern Methodist University
Trinity College
Tulane University
Union College
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Richmond
University of Vermont
Wake Forest University

Two to four graduates enrolled

Amherst College
Arizona State University
Bates College
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Duke University
Fordham University
Georgetown University
Lehigh University
Loyola Marymount University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Merrimack College

Middlebury College
Northwestern University
Norwich University
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Quinnipiac University
Roger Williams University
Saint Anselm College
Santa Clara University
Skidmore College
St. Lawrence University
Texas Christian University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Chicago
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of New England
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

One graduate enrolled

Adelphi University
American University
Assumption University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Bryant University
Canisius University
Carleton College
The Catholic University of America
Clark University
The College of Wooster
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
IE University-Segovia
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences

McGill University
Missouri State University
Newcastle University
North Carolina State University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Olin College of Engineering
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rollins College
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Michael's College
San Diego State University
San Jacinto College
Sarah Lawrence College
Smith College
Spelman College
Stanford University
Stonehill College
Temple University
United States Coast Guard Academy
United States Military Academy at West Point
United States Naval Academy
University of Arizona
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Delaware
University of Georgia *
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Mississippi
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of Notre Dame – Holy Cross
College Gateway Program
University of Rhode Island
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
The University of Texas at Austin
Vassar College
Wagner College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western University
West Virginia University
Wheaton College (IL)
Wheaton College (MA)
Xavier University

Bolded schools: One or more members of the Class of 2025 matriculated

* **schools:** One or more alumni matriculated following gap programs